



Approved For Release 2004/04/19 : CIA-RDP80B01676R000900050057-8

SECRET

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN
UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: ALVIS

The United Kingdom proposal to release the cipher equipment ALVIS to NATO has been under consideration by the United States since August of 1959. During this time, the USIB has discussed the matter at several of its meetings without arriving at agreement. Following its 19 January 1960 meeting, USIB referred the problem to the USCSB, which considered it on 28 January. All members of USCSB concurred in the desirability of the proposed release with the exception of the CIA member, who was opposed on the basis of intelligence considerations, and the Department of State member, who abstained.

As you know, the USIB meeting which followed the conversation between yourself and the Secretary of Defense on this subject did not change the status of the problem in any significant way. I have subsequently discussed the communications aspects of the proposed release with Major General Dreyfus of the Joint Staff, the officer having primary responsibility for such matters in the Department of Defense. As a result of this discussion and the views previously expressed in the USCSB, I am satisfied that the military requirement for the release of ALVIS is sufficiently compelling to warrant prompt resolution of the issue by appropriate authority.

Therefore, unless you wish to discuss the matter further with the Secretary of Defense pursuant to your earlier conversation with him, I propose to ask Mr. Gates to meet with you and the Secretary of State in an effort to decide the ALVIS question through the vehicle of the Special Committee of the NSC for COMSEC. I should be grateful for an early expression of your agreement to this course of action in order that we may arrive at a determination as to whether the proposed release is in the national interest without further delay.

JCS review(s) completed.

OSD REVIEW
COMPLETED

Graves B. Erskine
GRAVES B. ERSKINE
General, USMC (Ret.)
Chairman, USCSB

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Dulles *Outgr*

I talked to [] about the attached. He tells me that the COMINT report on [] is scheduled on the USIB agenda for this coming Tuesday. [] checked with Ting Sheldon when we received General Erskine's letter and Ting suggested he send copies of the letter to the USIB members. This has now been done and the whole subject will be discussed at the USIB meeting on 22 March.

Fre
FMC
18 March 1960
(DATE)

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FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Dulles:
General Cabell:

A copy of this memorandum has already been sent to [] for necessary action. Also, a copy has gone to Bob Amory for his information.

12/24/60
AAB
16 March 1960
(DATE)

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1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.